



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

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Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

FY 2014 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA)

Indian General Assistance Program (GAP) Proposal for supplemental funding for unmet needs

Work Plan Narrative for Supplemental Funding for FY 2014:

This workplan incorporates an additional \$25,500 into CRITFC's FY 2014 GAP funding for a special project to support the launching of a tribal group that is working to improve tribal involvement in fostering more region-wide approaches to regulating water quality in the Columbia River Basin. The tribal group is a coalition of the 15 Columbia Basin tribes and will first meet in early 2013. The group is working to establish both region-wide state and tribal water quality standards and implementation plans that are protective of the health of high fish consuming tribal members and of the quality of tribal first foods. The supplemental funding is for FY14 travel and outreach supplies to support CRITFC's leadership and involvement in the 15-Tribe Columbia River coalition as they begin to address water quality standard rulemaking in Washington and Idaho and to provide information on regional water quality issues at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians conferences and other regional tribal gatherings.

The project is needed because cooperation on water quality issues between all of the Columbia River Basin tribes is essential to realizing regional water quality standard regulations that are protective of tribal people. The future of our tribal fisheries depends on healthy watersheds and high quality water is critical to maintaining watershed health. The importance of water quality to our member tribes and all tribes that live in the Columbia Basin cannot be overstated. In the last year, there has been considerable opposition to the acceptance and implementation of tribally based fish consumption rates in the region. Although Oregon adopted water quality standards based on tribal fish consumption rates in 2011, the states of Washington and Idaho have not adopted similarly protective standards. Recently, Washington failed to incorporate a numerical fish consumption rate into the state's sediment management standards because of opposition to criteria that would have specified a tribally based rate. There have been numerous comments submitted during the Washington and Idaho rule making process comment periods that indicates a general misunderstanding of the rights of tribal members to safely consume traditional levels of fish as part of a modern diet. Following joint efforts to collaborate on common goals during the Columbia River Treaty negotiations including a joint meeting with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson in 2012, the 15 tribes of the Columbia River Basin agreed to establish a 15-tribe coalition in

early 2013 to work toward a regional approach to regulating and managing water quality programs.

CRITFC provides on-going technical support to the four Commission member tribes on contaminant threats to the fishery, regulatory processes and overall water quality. This project will provide funds for CRITFC staff and CRITFC member tribes' environmental staff to participate in the 15-Tribe water quality coalition meetings and to develop educational materials that will support the need for regional standards, best practices, and management plans. In addition this project will develop the capacity for all tribes that participate in the coalition to build the necessary expertise and educational materials to establish their own water quality standards.

In September 2012, Washington initiated rulemaking to adopt human health-based water quality standards and implementation rules for toxics. In 2013 - 2014, Idaho and EPA will be conducting a fish consumption survey of Idaho tribes and residents to establish a local fish consumption rate for Idaho's water quality standards. This project will also allow CRITFC and its member tribes to share their experiences in engaging in the Oregon water quality rulemaking process with the Columbia 15-tribe coalition and in so doing to improve tribal participation in the rule making processes in Washington and Idaho.

The project will close at the end of the 2014 as the states or EPA recognize a fish consumption rate that will hopefully consider the disproportionate risk that tribal members take on because of traditional subsistence practices.

The additional funding will be used to supplement the ongoing work set forth by the Water Quality Coordinator and CRITFC member tribes' technical staff in the following ways:

1. **Travel:** The FY14 workplan did not include a sufficient travel budget to support this project. Staff will attend monthly phone or face-to-face meetings of the 15-tribe water quality coalition, meetings regarding the Idaho rulemaking process and hearings, WA toxics strategy meetings, ATNI conferences (not budgeted for in the FY14 plan) and fish consumption rate working group meetings in coordination with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in Olympia, WA.
2. **Outreach Materials:** Printing, layout and material costs for the production of 2 white papers on water quality issues.

Below is a summary of the proposed budget, a detailed GAP budget worksheet has also been attached which contains greater detail. Due to the lack of dates for annual conferences/meetings, Spokane, WA was used a default for ATNI.

Proposed Supplemental Budget for FY 2014:

Travel/Registration Total: \$22,977

Idaho Rulemaking Meetings	\$1,154
Quarterly full 15-Tribe Coalition Meetings	\$11,320
Face to face steering group meetings	\$3,584
Quarterly ATNI Conferences	\$3,015
ID Fish Consumption rate analysis meeting	\$2,584
NWIFC Fish Consumption workgroup	\$420
Registration Fees	\$900
Total	\$22,977

Supplies Total: \$1,392

Printing/Layout Costs	\$1,000
Supplies	\$392
Total Supplies:	\$1,392

Indirect Costs

Subtotal	\$24,369
Indirect Total (Indirect Rate: .3542)	\$8,631
Total Supplies:	\$33,000

TOTAL BUDGET: \$33,000